

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOME USSR REPUBLICS FULFILLING 1952 FODDER PROCUREMENT PLAN;  
KAZAKH SOVKHOZES STRESS SHEEP QUALITY

USSR

As of 10 September, kolkhozes of Azerbaydzhan SSR had harvested 818,000 more metric tons of coarse fodder than as of the same date 1951 and had fulfilled the hay procurement plan 143 percent and the ensilage storage plan 121 percent. Kolkhozes of Moldavian SSR had harvested 200,000 more metric tons of coarse fodder than as of 10 September 1951 and had fulfilled the ensilage storage plan 105 percent. Kolkhozes of Uzbek SSR had harvested 230,000 more metric tons of coarse fodder than as of that date 1951. Ensilage storage is going well in Izmail'skaya Oblast, where kolkhozes have fulfilled the plan 194 percent.

Kolkhozes and MTS are unsatisfactorily collecting and stacking straw. Examples are many of those in Rostovskaya, Stalingradskaya, and Voronezhskaya oblasts and Stavropol'skiy Kray. (1)

Latvian flax growers are harvesting their crop at a rapid pace. By 11 September, considerably more flax had been pulled than by the same date 1951. About 400 flax combines and pullers are operating on kolkhoz fields; they will harvest about 40 percent of the sown area. (2)

- 3 -

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CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Lithuanian SSR

More than 100 MTS have been created in the republic. Each year, the volume of work performed by MTS in kolkhozes of the republic is increasing. But much antimechanization sentiment prevails. Facts show that not everywhere in the republic is this sentiment actively being opposed and combated; such sentiment shows up negatively on the progress of the grain harvest and delivery of grain to the state.

In Shyaulyayskaya Oblast, combine productivity is low. Many threshing, grain-cleaning, and grain-drying machines are poorly used. As of 10 September, the plan for reaping of grain in kolkhozes of the oblast had been met only 67.3 percent. Much cut grain has not been stacked or even tied into bundles; in consequence, grain is lost and deliveries to the state are delayed.(3)

Belorussian SSR

The first rayons of Polesskaya Oblast have fulfilled the plan for delivery of grain to the state.(4)

Ukrainian SSR

Very hot weather is speeding up ripening of cotton in Zaporozh'skaya Oblast. The bolls are opening and harvesting of raw cotton has begun.(5)

Moldavian SSR

The sunflower harvest has begun in the southern part of the republic. In Tiraspol'skiy Okrug, about 100 combines have been especially converted for harvesting sunflowers.(6)

RSFSR

An article, on "Grain Crops in Siberia," by A. Belozorov, director of the Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Grain Growing, contained the following information:

In accordance with the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the agricultural workers of the Urals, Siberia, and northeastern Kazakhstan face the task of raising grain crop yields to 15-16 quintals per hectare and on irrigated land to 24-26 quintals per hectare. This task is fully attainable. The experience of leading kolkhozes and rayons and data of scientific research institutions testify to the great possibilities of sharply increasing the yield of grain crops through general application of the whole body of agrotechnical measures which promote a continuing rise of agriculture.

In 1950, the gross grain harvest in Omskaya Oblast was twice as great as the prewar level. On limited areas ranging between 60 and 1,500 hectares, yields as high as 35 quintals per hectare were obtained.

In 1952, an especially unfavorable year, a comparatively high yield was obtained in kolkhozes located in the forest steppe zone, where forests created protection from dry winds. In selected kolkhozes, such yields were 11-25 quintals per hectare.

Among the measures which will assure large, stable harvests in Siberia, attention is directed first of all to a higher quality in working the soil. In the last, dry years, the struggle against drought became an especially pressing problem in the open steppe regions of Siberia. The idea that yield is dependent on quality in working the soil, even though the amount of precipitation remains

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

the same, runs like a thread through the works of the classical Russian agronomists. Only such working of the soil which leads to the creation of conditions for maximum accumulation and maximum conservation of moisture gives good results. The last years have heavily underscored the significance of measures which accomplish these ends.

Early clean summer fallow is a most effective means in the struggle against weeds and for moisture conservation. On really clean summer fallow, Siberian kolkhozes and sovkhoses every year obtain yields as high as 20 to 35 quintals per hectare. Even in the current dry year, 12-16 quintals per hectare were reaped in the open steppe and 18-25 quintals in the forest steppe regions. It is general, however, that kolkhozes do not prepare really early and clean summer fallow on which to sow wheat the next spring. In August and September, when the harvest is reaped, summer fallow grows over with weeds which deplete the soil of moisture.

Still more effective is black summer fallow. Spring wheat sown on black fallow of the Siberian Scientific Research Institute of Grain Growing in the spring of 1951 under unfavorable weather conditions yielded 21.5 quintals per hectare on the average. Spring wheat sown on black fallow of the institute in the spring of 1952 under still more unfavorable climatic conditions, since between 1 September 1951 and 1 September 1952 only 170 millimeters of precipitation fell at the institute, yielded 12 quintals per hectare: at the same time, some kolkhozes of Siberia harvested not more than 6-8 quintals per hectare from so-called "black fallow."

Sometimes, agrotechnical measures intended to raise the yield fail to accomplish the purpose. This failure occurs when they are carried out disconnectedly, out of relation to the whole body of measures, at improper times, and carelessly. Measures which fail to produce results if performed in ways just stated include harrowing of summer and winter fallow, cultivation prior to sowing, shallow plowing of stubble, and plowing of winter fallow.

Other important measures for raising the yield of grain crops in Siberia are crop rotation (in which kolkhozes of the region are not consistent), sowing of good varieties of seed, timely sowing, application of granulated commercial fertilizers together with local fertilizers, snow retention, planting of shelter belts (those already planted are often not cared for), and construction of ponds.(2)

Other sources give the following information on harvesting:

In the steppe regions of Altayskiy Kray, reaping of grain crops should be finished by 5 September, since after that date strong winds set in and shatter the grain still standing; grain harvested afterward yields one to two times less.(7)

The sugar beet harvest is developing in kolkhozes of Altayskiy Kray.

There are now 41 IPS (incubator and fowl-raising stations) in Bashkirskaya ASSR. In 1952, incubation work was begun one month earlier than in 1951. The stations produced and delivered to kolkhozes more than 5 million chicks; this number was four times more than before the war.(8)

So far, many Chelyabinskaya Oblast sovkhoses have not yet created the supplies of coarse fodder necessary for the winter. Since they have large areas sown to grain crops, they could cover the hay deficiency almost fully by collecting straw from the fields. But, there is a disinclination to do this in some sovkhoses.(7)

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

By 12 September, mass harvesting of cotton had begun in kolkhozes of Dagstanskaya ASSR.(5)

In Krasnoyarskiy Kray, 30 rayons have finished sowing of winter crops several days earlier than in 1951. Most kolkhozes of the kray are sowing according to the close-row and crisscross methods.(2)

#### Kazakh SSR

Kolkhozes of Dzhambulskaya Oblast have grown a good sugar beet crop.(6)

An article by Sh. Kospanov, chief of the Administration of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of State Farms Kazakh SSR, contained the following information:

Out of 170 sovkhoses under the ministry, 159 raise sheep but only 30 are specialized sheep-raising sovkhoses. During the last 3 years and 6 months, the number of sheep has increased 82.8 percent, including fine-wooled and semifine-wooled sheep 1.6 times. During this time, the yield of fine and semifine wool has increased by 3,690 quintals. Fine and semifine wool constitutes 75 percent of all wool delivered to the state by sovkhoses.

The number and quality of rams raised for sale has increased considerably. Out of 6,792 breeding rams sold in 1948, 4,285 were first-class types; during the first 8 months of 1952, despite very heavy demand, 4,557 out of 6,845 animals sold were first-class types. Altogether, more than 10,000 breeding rams will have been sold by the end of 1952.

Sovkhoses are expanding the fodder base. During the past 3 years, the perennial grass area increased 1.5 times and the annual grass area in excess of 1.5 times. Sowings of ensilage crops increased three times; ensilage prepared from wild and sown grasses was stored in 1.5 times greater quantity. Procurement of fodder root crops and cucurbits doubled. Even so, however, the fodder base continues to lag behind the increase in number of head. Although shelters were built for 307,000 head of sheep during the 3-year period, shelters were adequate for only 50 percent of the total number of head during the winter of 1951 - 1952. Inadequacy of the fodder base and shortage of shelters sharply retards reproduction of fine-wooled sheep and a further increase in their productivity.

During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the number of all sheep in sovkhoses of the republic is to increase 1.2 times over the number on 1 January 1951; fine-wooled and semifine-wooled sheep are to increase almost three times. To attain these increases, 14 meat sovkhoses and six meat and dairy sovkhoses have already been converted to sheep raising. Concrete measures are planned for increasing the fodder base and expanding the number of shelters.(7)

#### Kirgiz SSR

Kolkhozes of Kirgiz SSR have grown a good cotton crop. Mass harvesting of cotton is developing in the southern portion of the republic. Many new cotton-harvesting machines and tractors are operating on the fields. Planes of agricultural aviation are treating the cotton chemically for the purpose of removing the leaves before harvesting by mechanical pickers.(3)

It was announced at the Frunzenskaya Oblast party conference that kolkhozes of the oblast had grown a good grain harvest and had fulfilled the plan for delivery of grain to the state ahead of schedule. The fodder base and construction of livestock shelters is lagging behind the increase in number of head of livestock.(1)

- 4 -

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50X1-HUM

SOURCES

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- 5 -

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